



Gillespie Field Development Council



A Joint Powers Agreement Between the City of El Cajon and County of San Diego

Airport Administration Building ♦ 1960 Joe Crosson Drive ♦ El Cajon, California 92020-1236 ♦ (619) 956-4800

Clifford Leary
Chairman

John Gibson
Councilman

Jerry Hollingsworth
Vice Chairman

Robert Parker
Councilman

Rick Fordem
Councilman

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO GFDC APPROVAL November 15, 2005 MINUTES OF October 18, 2005

| <u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> | <u>STAFF PRESENT</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cliff Leary | Peter Drinkwater |
| Jerry Hollingsworth | Roger Griffiths |
| John Gibson | Reggie Angquico |
| Robert Parker | |
| Rick Fordem | |

*For others present, sign-in sheet is available in the Administration Building office.

1. ROLL CALL

Chairman Leary called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fordem made a motion that the minutes of July 19, 2005 be approved. Mr. Parker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Parker made a motion that the minutes of September 20, 2005 be approved. Mr. Fordem seconded the motion, with clarification on page 3 Item #9 New Business, Mr. Fordem replied that members of the Board of Directors from the Fletcher Hills Home Owners Association were at his residence at different times. The minutes of September 20, 2005 passed unanimously with Mr. Hollingsworth and Mr. Gibson abstaining due to their absence last meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Leary deferred the Chairman's Report until after Item #5 since some of his questions may be answered by County Airport Updates.

4. AIRPORT DIRECTOR UPDATE

Mr. Drinkwater pointed out that the latest GFDC Bi-Annual Report submitted to the Board of Supervisors stated there will be approximately 2500 jobs created and \$50 million in assessed property value added as a result of the improvements at the Cuyamaca West and Weld Blvd Development. Mr. Drinkwater also announced that a Public Environmental Scoping Meeting will be held at Gillespie Field Administration Building Lobby on November 3, 2005 from 6 PM to 8 PM regarding the redevelopment of the 70-acre Cajon Air Center (CAC) land.

Mr. Leary objected to the wording on the Public Scoping Meeting Announcement stating that we are seeking input as to how to develop CAC not whether or not to develop it for aviation use.

5. AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE

Mr. Griffiths answered Ms. Hand's question from last month stating that Gillespie Field has a total of 271 tiedowns. In regards to planting ice plant to reduce dust clouds at the approach end of Runway 27, he is waiting for Padre Dam to inform him of the presence of waterlines in that area for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Leary reviewed two of Mr. Hammerstrands concerns last meeting. The first topic was regarding fuel tanks. There was a discussion regarding the advantage and disadvantage of above and below ground fuel storage. The second topic was regarding obtaining a 50 year lease to be profitable.

Mr. Leary requested an update on tree obstructions on the east end of Runway 27.

Mr. Griffiths replied that 9 homeowners were notified by mail and 4 have responded and have accepted Gillespie Field's request for the tree removal.

Mr. Fordem inquired about the issues with Highway 52 connector road to Highway 67 and Runway 17 approach.

Mr. Drinkwater replied that Airports Engineer Eric Nelson and Caltrans Engineers have submitted a 7460 to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and there appear to be no problems. Further follow-up on this project will be made by Eric Nelson.

Mr. Leary expressed concern about a large palm tree and a billboard when approaching Runway 27L for a landing.

Mr. Griffiths replied that the two palm trees are on County property and will be removed. The billboard is not on County property.

Mr. McDowell announced that a Lancair aircraft N285JB was reported missing and was last seen by ASTREA near Pine Valley.

6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE GILLESPIE FIELD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

Mr. Barry Bardack stated that the verbiage in the public meeting notice needs to be revised. The letter should not use the word “proposal to change”, since the 70-acre parcel was deeded by the US Government for aviation use only, there is nothing being proposed or being converted. The land is intended to be developed for aviation use.

Ms. Karen Gomes inquired if the Christmas Tree Farm lease was renewed.

Mr. Drinkwater replied that the lease is in the process of being renewed.

Ms. Karen Gomes was concerned about the helicopter accident that occurred at Montgomery Field. She stated that the FAA here in San Diego is treating the accident as if it is just a fender bender despite injuries involved. She hopes that this same treatment does not occur at Gillespie Field.

Mr. Griffiths replied that there are standard procedures for incidents and that they will be followed by responding County Airport Staff.

Ms. Tara Hands wanted to verify the rumor she heard that trees are going to be cut down north of Pepper Drive and the owners would be paid \$2000. She stated she did not see any trees there that needed to be cut down and suggested another location where there are 40 foot palm trees.

Mr. Griffiths replied that it is true that certain trees have been designated to be cut down and the \$2000 is for the Right of Entry Permit to enter the tree owner's property.

Ms. Tara Hands was concerned with 500 hangars being built at Gillespie stating that there will be a lot of aircraft coming in. She wanted to know if corporate jets can be put in a T-hangar.

Mr. Griffiths stated that a standard T-hangar will fit a small aircraft like a Cessna 172 or a Beech Bonanza, not a corporate jet.

Ms. Tara Hands wanted to know what kind of hangar corporate jets would fit in and how many will be built at Gillespie Field.

Mr. Drinkwater replied that a corporate jet would fit in a box hangar and the number to be built will be determined by market demands and responses during the Request for Proposal process.

Ms. Tara Hands stated many do not feel the GFDC is representing the interest of property owners around the Gillespie Field and she recommended that Karen Gomes be appointed to the Council during times where there are members missing and a vote is needed for major issues. She requested information regarding the term of expiration date and the appointing authority for each of the GFDC members.

Ms. Carolyn Anderson requested that mandatory noise limits and curfew be enforced at Gillespie Field due to the addition of 500 to 600 hangars. She also stated that Silver State had 3 helicopter accidents at other locations including one fatality.

Mr. Leary replied that curfews are not allowed by the FAA and he could not see how it would prevent a helicopter crash. Mr. Leary stated that there are erroneous mistakes on Ms. Anderson's Residents Against Gillespie Expansion (RAGE) website and some of the information she brings to the GFDC meetings. For example, the number of hangars (500 to 600) that will be developed is not accurate. Mr. Leary advised Ms. Anderson to be more careful with her statistics and information she provides such as chemicals being dropped around the airport and cancer epidemics caused by aircraft.

Ms. Carolyn Anderson requested that any errors found be written down and given to her. She stated that she has studies to back up her information and is willing to give this information to Mr. Leary.

Mr. Drinkwater stated that Ms. Anderson's questions tonight were the same questions that were discussed at Supervisor Dianne Jacob's Office. The Noise and Capacity Act prohibits discrimination against aircraft operations and curfews are not an option. Many of the suggestions made by Ms. Anderson violate Federal Grant Assurances. This was explained by FAA, Mr. Charles Hicks, Esq., with Supervisor Jacob and Ms. Anderson.

Ms. Carolyn Anderson suggested San Diego County Airports stop receiving federal grants so the FAA cannot dictate to County Airports. She wants Gillespie Field to remain the way it is without further development or addition of jets and helicopters. Ms. Anderson stated there are documentations that communities around airports get worse when airports grow like Santa Monica.

Mr. Drinkwater replied that even if no further grants were accepted there are grants in the past that would need to be repaid. In addition, the federal government also placed deed restrictions for the use of Gillespie Field Land when it was given to the County of San Diego. So, not accepting Federal Grants is not a constructive alternative and would not remove deed restrictions regarding land use.

Ms. Tara Hands stated that she sent for a circular the FAA representative (Mr. Hicks) mentioned during the meeting at Supervisor Diane Jacob's Office, and in that circular, it stated that helicopters were to fly 2000 feet above residences. She also pointed out that Naples Airport won a court case against FAA, banning Stage II aircraft because of the noise problem and that it is possible to go against the FAA and win.

Mr. Drinkwater clarified the meaning of a Stage II aircraft and stated that this type of aircraft is now being phased out or modified with new engines and these types of aircraft are not common at Gillespie Field.

Mr. Parker added that even if all the grants were repaid to the FAA, they still have power to regulate County Airports. Repaying the grants is not the answer to this perceived problem. Gillespie Field exists because of the grants and sustains the local economy. In addition, the deed restrictions limit the options for Gillespie Field land use.

Mr. Greg Reynolds said that Ms. Hands is correct in stating that we do not have to do what the federal government tells us to do, we are the government. He stated that the Ninth Circuit Court ruled in the past that the FAA has no right interfering in the affairs of local government. He further stated that no one has enforced laws or is accountable. There are carrier aircraft and aircraft from Gillespie Field competing for space on top of this mesa and no one does anything about it. He also stated that there are helicopters flying at tree top level generating much more than minimum required decibel limits set forth by the State. The State also says that enforcement of regulations is to be done by the County and that the County is not enforcing anything. There are a lot of proposals by the County, but it is voluntary. Mr. Reynolds related that he had a conference call with Mr. Drinkwater and Mr. Tom Bosworth of County Counsel. Mr. Bosworth requested Mr. Drinkwater investigate a County helicopter hovering over Mr. Reynolds' house at night. Mr. Reynolds stated that according to witnesses, the helicopter departed the east side of Mount Helix, and nothing has been done to resolve this problem. Last Saturday morning, the same problem occurred after Mr. Reynolds sent a letter to the County Commissioner and no one has done anything about it. Mr. Reynolds asked if the laws were going to be enforced according to the State Statutes. He stated the time for investigation has passed, the law requires 30 days and it has not been accomplished. Mr. Reynolds repeated the question regarding whether the law was going to be enforced

by taking punitive measures against these pilots. Mr. Reynolds then pointed out that nobody had asked the witnesses any questions about this incident.

Mr. Griffiths asked if he was referring to the helicopter flying on June 20, 2005 at 2130 hours which he previously discussed with Mr. Reynolds on the phone.

Mr. Reynolds affirmed that is the incident he was referring to. He also stated that he was not satisfied with Mr. Griffiths answer and reiterated that there were witnesses that saw where the helicopter departed.

Mr. Leary told Mr. Reynolds to give Mr. Griffiths a chance to complete his response.

Mr. Griffiths attempted to answer and Mr. Reynolds interrupted asking if Mr. Griffiths was going to do something about it.

Mr. Drinkwater attempted to speak and Mr. Reynolds interrupted stating he did not want to hear Mr. Drinkwater's explanation. He demanded to know if the County was or was not going to enforce the law.

Mr. Drinkwater replied that he wanted Mr. Griffiths to answer his first question regarding the June 20, 2005 incident since Mr. Griffiths conducted an investigation.

Mr. Reynolds again interrupted stating that he did not receive a written report.

Mr. Griffiths replied that there was no written report.

Mr. Reynolds stated that according to the statutes of the State of California, Mr. Griffiths did not properly conduct an investigation.

Mr. Griffiths stated that on the night of June 20th, a Huey type helicopter made an approach to Grossmont Hospital.

Mr. Reynolds interrupted and said it did not and that he has witnesses that will testify the helicopter did not go within one mile of Grossmont Hospital.

Mr. Griffiths related that he received a complaint from Mr. Reynolds the day after the incident so he contacted Mercy Air who stated that the helicopter came from outside San Diego County. The crew of that helicopter was not familiar with the approach into Grossmont Hospital.

Mr. Reynolds interrupted and said that the helicopter hovered over his house a mile away.

Mr. Leary struck the gavel and declared Mr. Reynolds out of order and stated that Robert's Rules of Order will be followed. He advised Mr. Reynolds that he should not interrupt while others are speaking and he will be given the same courtesy.

Mr. Griffiths stated that there are County employees who also witnessed the same helicopter at the same time and their observation differs from Mr. Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds requested the names of the witnesses and a written report.

Mr. Griffiths replied that there was no written report and he was not required to write one.

Mr. Reynolds told Mr. Griffiths that he is required by law to write a report.

Mr. Griffiths stated that since April 1, 2005, Mr. Reynolds has submitted about 5000 complaints to him.

Mr. Reynolds interrupted and declared that Mr. Griffiths was bordering on slander.

Mr. Leary ordered Mr. Reynolds to take a seat or leave the chambers.

Mr. Reynolds advised the Council that he will be officially heard from and stated that he was leaving the chambers.

Mr. Griffiths continued to explain that Mr. Reynolds has complained about low flying aircraft and helicopters around La Mesa and his property, flying at altitudes of 50 to 100 feet and below treetop levels. He has complained about improperly marked aircraft and continuously states that he will take legal actions. Mr. Reynolds' issues have reached the Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and they have sent a representative to Mr. Reynolds' property. Mr. Griffiths stated that he has spent two hours overlooking Mr. Reynolds' property and surrounding areas but has not been able to see the activities that Mr. Reynolds has alleged and complained about. There also have not been any similar complaints from his neighborhood or from County Airport Staff who live in that area.

Mr. Drinkwater stated that a telephone conference between himself, County Counsel Tom Bosworth and Mr. Reynolds took place due to Mr. Reynolds' statements regarding legal actions, but the discussion did not satisfy Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Drinkwater explained that numerous complaints by Mr. Reynolds have been researched, however, the sheer volume of complaints made it very difficult for staff to respond to everything. Mr. Reynolds' complaints could not be verified by radar tapes, flight tracks, air traffic personnel or surrounding community activities. Mr. Reynolds has

dominated the time of the Gillespie Field Airport Manager and his allegations have no merit.

Mr. Leary apologized and explained that he will not tolerate anyone interrupting another speaker.

Mr. Gibson thanked the County Airport Staff for their professionalism and efforts in trying to solve problems, and stated that unfortunately, not everyone can be satisfied.

Mr. Rob Dennis thanked Mr. Griffiths for meeting with all of the Flight Schools during the Fixed Base Operators Meeting to discuss voluntary noise abatement procedures and flight patterns. Mr. Dennis thanked County Airport Staff, the Flight Schools and GFDC for their efforts of continuing to make Gillespie Field a good neighbor. He also noted that County Airport Staff is quick to address any problems.

Ms. Betty Chafetz asked the following questions: What is Gillespie Field going to develop into? How many and what kind of aircraft will be flying in and out of Gillespie Field? What is the present ratio between fixed wing aircraft, jets and helicopters? Are there plans for going beyond small aircraft training? Is the air quality going to get worse?

Mr. Leary recommended Ms. Chafetz check the San Diego County Airports website and read the Airport Layout Plan which has detailed information and projections for Gillespie Field. Mr. Leary stated that Gillespie Field currently has around 750 aircraft and will probably grow to 1200 aircraft in the next ten years.

Mr. Drinkwater suggested that Ms. Chafetz read the Narrative Report available at the Gillespie Field Administration Office which contains forecast growth averages, noise contours and forecast aircraft types. He also stated it is incorrect to conclude that all jets are noisier than propeller driven aircraft, since there are some propeller driven aircraft that are noisier than jets.

Mr. Griffiths announced that the viewing area will be relocated when the development of the Cajon Air Center begins. One possible location would be the northeastern part of Gillespie Field on the high ground at the approach end of Runway 27R.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. Mr. Leary adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Gillespie Field Development Council will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, December 20, 2005 in City Council Chambers, 200 E. Main Street, El Cajon.

By _____
Reggie Angquico, Office Support Specialist